

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service offers news services and editorial cooperation of members of the labor movement in the industrial, trade union, and labor news service.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE SUPPLEMENT

WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, MAY 16, 1947

AFL Monthly Business Survey Reveals \$200 Million Decline In Inventories

Washington, D. C.—Expansion of business inventories already has dropped from last summer's already high 600,000 to \$100,000,000 a month, and unless consumers can keep orders flowing to factories, this decline will start lay-offs.

This is the picture presented in the official Monthly Survey of the American Federation of Labor after a careful study of the economic situation throughout the country.

"High employment since the end of the war has been maintained, and the increase demand for goods on the part of consumers and business firms has been reported. 'Business firms were producing, and their inventories were increasing, but they were not selling their inventories of goods at the rate at which they were being produced, and they were buying new equipment, repair parts, and other supplies."

"Once these large purchases are being completed, inventories are being depleted to such an extent that by the end of 1946, tapering off toward the end of the year, but the depletion of inventories already had taken off a large part of the market."

"Unless consumers can keep buying goods to keep the market open, the depletion of inventories will continue, and the business firms will be forced to lay off workers. The survey pointed out, it is a fact that the end of the year, but the depletion of inventories already had taken off a large part of the market."

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LABOR DEPT. CITS DANGERS IN BILLS TO WEAKEN LABOR

Washington, D. C.—The Labor Department is warning that the passage of the Taft-Hartley anti-labor bills, which would strip the hands of anti-union employers the means for destroying unions, would be a disaster for the country.

"The free enterprise system, which we are all proud to call the American way of life, is in danger of being destroyed by the passage of the Taft-Hartley anti-labor bills, which would strip the hands of anti-union employers the means for destroying unions, would be a disaster for the country."

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Secretary Tells Nation Progress Legislation Menaces U. S. Welfare

Washington, D. C.—Anti-labor legislation approved by the House and Senate, and now in conference, would destroy trade unions and wipe out the advantages workers, through organization, have gained for years.

"The Taft-Hartley anti-labor bill has passed both houses of the United States Congress by large majorities. The Joint Conference Committee consisting of five members from each house will adjust differences between the Senate bill and the House bill, and the remaining bill must be approved by both the House of Representatives and the Senate, and sent to the President for approval or disapproval. This process will probably take about two weeks."

"This legislation gives anti-union employers the means to destroy unions and wreck the progress of labor."

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TO ALL UNION MEMBERS:

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Fraternally yours,
WILLIAM GREEN, President,
GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer,
American Federation of Labor.

Leaders in Three Religions Condemn Bills to Shackles American Workers

New York City—Churchmen of three faiths, Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant, have joined in a statement condemning the Taft-Hartley anti-labor bills, which would strip the hands of anti-union employers the means for destroying unions, would be a disaster for the country.

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Write Your Senators And Congressman To Fight Anti-Labor Bills

Green and Meany Warn Anti-Union Bills Carry Severe Threats To Every Worker

Washington, D. C., Friday, May 16, 1947

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President Signs Portal Suit Ban But Appeals For 65-Cent Base Pay

Washington, D. C.—President Truman signed the bill banning suits for damages by workers for breach of contract, but coupled with his message to Congress he urged a 65-cent base pay for legislation to raise the minimum wage provided by the Fair Labor Standards Act to 65 cents an hour.

At the same time he urged that the minimum wage benefits be extended to many more workers not now protected by the law.

Leaders of labor committees in both houses of Congress indicated an immediate willingness to open hearings on the President's proposal for a 65-cent minimum wage.

The President's message on the signing of the portal-suit ban was explained by labor leaders as being "in the interest of the economic stability of the Nation."

Leaders of the AFL defined commitment to a minimum wage of 65 cents an hour as a "first step" in the fight for a 75-cent minimum wage. They said that the minimum wage would help to bring about a more equitable distribution of income.

N. Y. Jobless Rolls Up 25 Percent

New York City—Unemployment rose 25 percent in the first four months of the year, according to a report by the New York City Division of Planning and Community Development.

The report said that the number of jobless workers in the city had risen from 100,000 in January to 125,000 in April. The increase was attributed to a combination of factors, including a decline in the number of new jobs created and a rise in the number of workers leaving the labor force.

The City Department of Welfare said that the number of jobless workers in the city had risen from 100,000 in January to 125,000 in April. The increase was attributed to a combination of factors, including a decline in the number of new jobs created and a rise in the number of workers leaving the labor force.

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MATTHEW WILL IS CITED FOR HIS AID TO WORKERS

Philadelphia—Matthew Will, president of the American Federation of Labor, was cited for his aid to workers in the fight against the Taft-Hartley anti-labor bills.

The citation was issued by the National Labor Relations Board, which has been investigating the activities of the AFL in the fight against the Taft-Hartley anti-labor bills.

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Tennessee Labor Advised to Insist On Union Labels

Johnson City, Tenn.—The International Chemical Workers Union is advising its members to insist on union labels for their products.

The union said that it had received information that some of its members were being asked to sell products without union labels. The union urged its members to refuse to sell such products and to insist on union labels for all products.

Chemical Workers In Harrison, N. J., Win Major Gains

Harrison, N. J.—The International Chemical Workers Union has won a major victory in its fight for a 75-cent minimum wage for its members.

The union said that it had secured a 75-cent minimum wage for its members, which was a significant gain over the previous 65-cent minimum wage. The union also won other gains, including a 10-hour workday and a 15-day vacation period.